

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

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R 050702Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CB

SUBJ: PRESS INTERVIEW WITH LON NOL

1. THERE HAS BELATEDLY COME TO OUR ATTENTION VIA A LOCAL KHMER LANGUAGE PAPER AN INTERVIEW ACCORDED ON DECEMBER 30 BY MARSHAL LON NOL TO NEIL DAVIS, A RESIDENT AND REPUTABLE AUSTRALIAN JOURNALIST WHO REPRESENTS REUTERS, THE FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW, THE AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION, AND VIZ NEWS, AN AUSTRALIAN TELEVISION ORGANIZATION.

2. THE INTERVIEW CONTAINED THE FOLLOWING QUESTION AND ANSWER:

BEGIN QUOTE

Q. MR PRESIDENT, THE KHMERS OF THE OTHER SIDE HAVE SAID THAT THEY WOULD NOT NEGOTIATE WITH THE KHMER REPUBLIC SO LONG AS YOU REMAIN PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC. IN CASE YOU SHOULD COME TO BELIEVE THAT WHAT THEY HAVE SAID COULD WELL LEAD TO PEACE, WOULD YOU RESIGN?

A. I THINK IT IS FIRST NECESSARY TO APPLY THE RESOLUTION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHICH RECOMMENDS NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN KHMERS WITHOUT FOREIGN INTERFERENCE.

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TO SPEAK OF CONDITIONS AT THIS TIME APPEARS TO ME

PREMATURE, SINCE THE UN ITSELF HAS APPROVED THE PRINCIPLE OF NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS. THUS, I DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS THE MOMENT TO TALK OF CONDITIONS.

END QUOTE.

3. COMMENT: THE INTERESTING POINT IS THAT IN A STATEMENT PRINTED IN THE LOCAL KHMER LANGUAGE PRESS THE MARSHAL SIDESTEPED THE QUESTION, WITHOUT GIVING A CATEGORICAL DENIAL OF ANY INTENT TO STEP DOWN.
DEAN

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